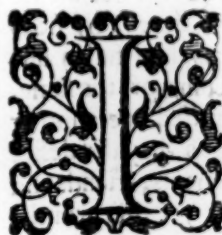




A

VIEVV OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE

Westerne Counties for the *Pacification*
of their present Troubles &c.



Thath been long the mischievous designe of those, who have embroyled this Kingdom in a *Civill Warre*, not only to maintain an *Army* of discontented and seditious persons, for the destruction of their *Soveraigne*, but to ingage the greatest and most populous *Counties* in an unnaturall dissention amongst themselves.

In prosecution of which wicked Counsailes, as they have spared no subtile *Artifices*, to infatuate and seduce the people to their own destruction, and the undoing of their wives and families: so when they find them sensible of those afflictions which they have pulled upon themselves, and willing to returne into more peaceable courses; they have not failed to animate them to their former furie, and interrupt all *Consultations* and *Agreements* which might conduce unto their *Peace*. The first example of this kind was that of *Yerkshire*, the Gentry and Commonalty of the which, having played too long a part in this wofull *Tragedy*, had mutually agreed

upon such equall termes of *Pacification*, as might restore that Country to its antient quiet; and this they had confirmed by the *subscription* of the hands of the most eminent & able men of either party. But this was presently disallowed by those *factious* spirits, who have too great a power in the two Houses of *Parliament*, as being utterly *destructive* of their ends and hopes: and upon that dislike commanded not to be observed, and so by consequence annulled. How miserable a *Theatre* of blood, death, and rapine, that wretched Country hath been made ever since that time, as we see now not without grieve and Lamentation, so shall *Posterity*, being lesse interested in the quarrels which are now on foot, peruse the story of it with a greater sorrow. *Cheshire* as not farre off in *situation*, was next unto this people in *example* also. They on the sense of those calamities under which they suffered, by nourishing an *intestine* warre in their own bowels, had fallen upon the like attonement: and for the keeping of the same, the *Principall Agents* of each side had promised one another severally in the word of a *Gentleman*, and as they did desire to *prosper*, that both themselves, their Tenants, friends and servants would most strictly keep it. But yet this promise made in so solemne maner, and bound with such an *imprecation* to observe the same, was not found sufficient, for the preventing of all further acts of enmity and desolation, there following on the neck thereof, a *Declaration of the Lords and Commons assembled in Parliament*, wherein was signified and declared, That the said *Pacification* and agreement, was very prejudiciall to the whole Kingdom, derogatory to the power and Priviledge of *Parliament*; and therefore that not only the inhabitants thereof, but that the *Gentlemen* themselves who were the parties to the *Articles* were not bound unto them; and finally all the inhabitants thereof, commanded and required



quired to pursue their former *Resolutions*, for the assistance of the *Parliament* in the Common cause.

Though these *examples* might have terrified the most moderate men, such as were most inclinable to their Countries peace, from ventring on the like *conclusions*, which they perceived would not be left unto their power to observe or not: yet warre and discord are such troublesome and unwelcome guests, that notwithstanding these discouragements, the *Western* Counties have embraced the same Counsailes also, and entertained some *Propositions*, conducing to the introduction of a blessed peace. And first the Gentlemen and other intelligent persons of the County of *Dorset*, having felt some of the effects of *Warre* in the action of *Sherborne*, and seeing how great a flame was raised in *Devonshire*, bordering next upon them, endeavoured to preserve themselves from that combustion which had laid wast so many of their neighbours houses. And to that end agreed amongst themselves upon such *Articles*, as the necessity of their affaires, and the sad spectacles before their eyes, did invite them to: whereof Sir *Thomas Trenchard* Knight; and John *Browne* Esquire, two of the Deputy Lieutenants for exercising of the *Militia*, according to the *Ordinance* of the two Houses of *Parliament*, were as the first movers so the most effectuall promoters too. And yet this *Pacification* was agreed upon, and at a time, when the whole County so distasted the proceedings of the two Houses of *Parliament*, that there was tenne against them for every one that would adventure in their cause, (as the said Gentlemen did signify by letters to diverse of their friends in the *Lower House*) was not held convenient. And thereupon Sir *William Waller* must be hastned to the *Western* parts, that by the power and reputation of his *Armes* the said Agreement might be broken; and all that had consented to the com-

mon Peace might either be compelled to advance the *Warre*, or flie the *Country*.

In the mean time, whilst *Waller* was upon his March, and the affaires of *Dorset-shire* in so good condition, that it was hoped they would be able to make good their own *Conclusions*: the *Devon-shire* and the *Cornish* Armies, who had so oft imbrued their hands in each others blood, though still with losse of men and reputation on the *Devon-shire* side, began to hearken to such counsailes, as God had put into the hearts of some honest Gentlemen, (though otherwise of different opinions) to propose unto them. And it pleased him who maketh two to be of one minde in an house, so to incline the hearts both of the greater and the better part of those severall *Counties*, as first to hearken to a truce, and on the expiration of that Truce (which was expired the seventh of this present March) to yeeld to a Cessation for twenty daies, that so the Treaty might advance with the more apparent hopes of an happy issue. Which being mutually agreed on for the common good, their next care was to choose Commissioners for each side, men of integrity and honour, on whom they might conferre a concluding power to bind all parties; and unto whose determinations they might with safety and assurance submit themselves. This done, and the Commissioners assembled at Mount-Edgecomb a place in *Cornwall*, on the fourth of March, to give assurance each to other, and to all the world, of their integrity, and of the reall intentions which they had to peace (secluded from all sinister and particular ends) they took a solemne Protestation, and afterward received the blessed Sacrament, for ratification of the same. The Protestation is as followeth, which I have here transcribed verbatim, that all the World may see, (if they be not blind,) with what sincerity and candor they purpose to proceed in so great a businesse.

I. A.B. doe solemnly vow and protest in the presence of Almighty God, that I doe not only come a Commissioner to this treaty, with an hearty and fervent desire of concluding an honourable and firme Peace betwixt the two Counties of Cornwall and Devon, but also will to the utmost of my power prosecute and really endeavour to accomplish and effect the same, by all lawfull waies and means I possibly can, First by maintaining the Protestant Religion established by Law in the Church of England, The just rights and prerogative of our Sovereigne Lord the King, The just priviledges and freedome of Parliaments, together with the just rights and the liberty of the Subject; and that I am without any intention (by fomenting this unnatural Warre) to gaine or hope to advantage my selfe with the recall or personall estate of any person whatsoever, or obtaining any Office, Command, title of Honour, benefis or reward, either from the Kings Majesty, or either or both houses of Parliament now assembled. And this I take in the presence of Almighty God, and as I shall answer the same at his Tribunall, according to the literall sence and meaning of the fore-going words, without any Equivocation, Mentall Reservation, or other Evasion whatsoever, So help me God. Which Protestation being thus taken, was subscribed also by the hands of all the Commissioners, being eighteen in number, for each County nine.

This preparation being made, and the syncerity of their intentions so fully manifested, the Commissioners authorized for Cornwall (considering that they stood on the higher ground) did first propound their Articles to those of Devon: Articles of so even a temper, and so agreeable to the Lawes established, that those of Devonshire had been bound to admit the same, if all things had succeeded answerably to their former expectations and endeavours. The most materiall of them were to this effect. 1. That the book of Common-prayer,

prayer, the *Doctrine* and *Discipline* of the Church of *England* formerly established by lawfull authority, for the true and sincere worship of God, be duely and truly observed in all the parishes of both *Counties*, untill the *Discipline* be altered by such authority as it was established by; and that all the infringers & depravers of the same either of the *Clergy* or *Laiety*, be duely proceeded against according to the known *Laws* of the land. 2. That the *Common* and *statute* lawes of this Realm of *England* be truly and really put in execution against all offenders & violaters of the same lawes in either *County*, according to the usuall legall course, and as hath been anciently accustomed. 3. That all trade, traffique, and free *Commerce* be open in and between both *Counties*, as heretofore in the most peacable and best times. 4. That no man in his person, estate, or goods, be arrested imprisoned, detayned, outed, dispossessed, or any waies molested, by any power or authority, whatsoever, without due *processe* of the *Lawes* of the Land. And 5. That all new erected fortifications & sersguards within the City and County of *Exeter*, and in and upon all towns Castles, Bridges and passages within the Counties of *Devon* and *Cornwall* be removed and slighted at the cost and charges of the *Erectors* of the same, and that his Majesties Forts, Castles, and other ancient and usuall places of command within both Counties, be put into the same hands and custodie as they were in before these unhappy differences; and assurance given for the maintaining of the same without any addition or alteration: and that all *Armes* and *Ammunition*, of all and every person and persons whatsoever, be restored againe to the right owners. Tho other Articles there were, but these the principall. And these together with the *Protestation*, the said *Commissioners* desired might be published in all the Market-Townes and *Parochiall* Churches of the said two Counties, without any alteration either in the writing, reading,

ding, or publishing thereof to the intent it might appeare un-
to all the world, who were the faithfull observers of the said
Protestation, first known to on the holy *Evangelists*, and af-
terwards confirmed by the receiving of the blessed *Sacra-*
ment, and who the violaters of the same.

These *Propositions* being so equal, and so agreeable to the
known *Laws* of the Land, were like to find but little oppo-
sition from the *Commissioners* for the other County, if they
met with any. But whilst they were in *consultation* how to
transact and settle their affaires, in such a way as might be
permanent and secure: it pleased God to put into their mindes
the offering of a *communication* of the same pretious benefit
to the adjoyning Counties of *Somerset* and *Dorset*; who as
they had participated somewhat in the *Calamities* of the
Warre, so could they not but be as sensible of the *blessings &*
 effects of their neighbours Peace. Which being taken by
them into *consideration*, it was agreed upon of all sides, that
letters should be writtten to the principall persons of those se-
verall Counties respectively, to invite them to joyne with
them in so good a work, conducing so apparantly to their
common happinesse. And this accordingly was done, letters
being written and subscribed by the hands of twelve of the
Commissioners, Sir *Ralph Hopton* subscribing in the first place:
which letters were dated from *Mount-Edgecomb* on the sixth
of *March*, being the very next day save one, that they were
assembled. So soone did they agree on that weighty poynt,
that there may seem to be, some superior power, which did
so readily induce and incline them to it. The place appoynted
for the meeting, was the *New-Towne in Exeter*; the day the
fourteenth of this Moneth, which was *Tuesday* last, being the
seventh of the *Cessation*. And that they might attend the ser-
vice with the greater safety, and more assurance of their lives
and persons: there was a *safe-Conduct* granted by the chiefe

Factors of the two Houses of Parliament, for every one of the Commissioners of the said four Counties, with two men a peece for their retinue, ~~to come, remain, and returne~~ (I speak out of the words of the Originall) ~~to come, remain, and returne~~ to the said place or any other places which shall be appointed for the treaty by the said Commissioners. Which letters of safe Conduct doe bear their date at Plymouth, the seventh of March, subscribed in the first place, by the Earle of Stamford, after by Sir George Chudleigh, Northcote, Martyn, and others the chief sticklers in the former troubles.

One would not think, that an *Accommodation* so just and necessary, tending so visibly to the ease and benefit of all His Majesties Subjects in those Counties, so evidently *conservative* of their lives and fortunes, which had before been made a prey to the sharpest sword, so sensibly conducing to the advancement of Gods glory and the Kings Honour, should meet with opposition in that place, and amongst those persons, who hitherto have given out (and certainly would take it ill not to be believed) that they ~~endeavour~~ nothing more, then the establishment of all these on the surest grounds. Yet so it hapned, that when this newes was brought to the House of Commons, which was on Saturday March the eleventh in the afternoon: it was received with great heat and passion, as finding their authority to be thereby lessened, and that *unlimited* and *arbitrary* power which they had exercised before on the Subjects there, to be restrained very much, if not quite destroyed. For now they saw that all those Counties would be freed from all those *Tyrannicall* constraints and impositions, which had been forced upon them by their *Committees*; that those in whom they most *confided* had betrayed the cause, and were no longer willing to advance their ends in the oppression of their neighbours; that the people would again returne to the Kings obedience, and submit

submit themselves to no other rule, then the known Lawes of the *Realme*; and who could tell whether the contagion of so dangerous an *example* might not infect the neighbouring Counties, and so prevaile at last over all the *Kingdom*. Besides there was another circumstance, which added much to their vexation and disquiet; which was that here they met not with a bare *subscription* of mens names, as in that of *Torke-shire*; or only with a promise made in the word of a Gentleman, though bound and made up with an *imprecation*, as in that of *Cheeshire*: but with *subscription* of the names of the *Commissioners*, the taking of a solemne *Oath*, and the receiving of the *Sacrament* to confirme the same. And such a three-fold cord (in case the *Wise mans* note be of any credit) is not easily broken.

And yet well fare a gallant confidence. They were reolved upon the question to *Break* all these bonds, to *dissolve* the *Treaty*, to reduce matters there to the same confusion which they had brought them to before, and make those neighe-like the sonnes of *Cadmus*, imploied upon no other service then to kill one another. Why should not two whole *Counties* perish, nay to say truth, why should not a whole *Kingdom* be exposed unto spoyle and ruine, rather then some suspected Malefactors be brought to yeeld themselves to a *Legall* tryall? Were not the *Tribunes of the People* in the State of *Rome*, held to be inviolable, exempt for whatsoever they committed, from all Law and punishment? Rather then to give up the power, with so much art and industry acquired; let us adventure once on a poynt of *Popery*, and *dispen*ce with them for their *Oathes*; which being taken by them without our consent, have no power to bind them. This last insisted on so cordially, by some that doe pretend most hatred to *Papish* errours; (as is advertised from *London* by letters of the 11. of *March*) that at the last it was concluded to

dispatch *Prideaux* and *Nicola* two of their *Members* in all haste to *Exeter*, to signify their dislike of the whole businesse to the severall *Counties*, and by all means to break in pieces the *Agreement*, from which they feared such mischiefs would redound unto them. But it is hoped, that notwithstanding their endeavours to subvert this *Treaty*, and the Gentlemen and others of those *Counties* whom it most concerne, will not so easily be altered from their *resolutions*: beginning at the last (though long first) to reassume the use of their own senses; to trust no farther to the insinuating arts of others, then they see cause for; to find in what a comfortable state they lived, when they could feele no power above them, but the mild *Scepter* of a mercifull and gracious King, and finally to perceive what irremediable calamities the *Tork-shire* and the *Cheshire* men have drawn upon themselves and their severall *Countries*, by breaking those *Agreements*, on the like temptation, which were so faithfully condescended to for their common good. However we may see even by these endeavours, what hopes of ease, what inclination to be expected from the hands of those cruell *Chirurgeons*, who are so farre from binding up the wounds of this bleeding body, that they enlarge the *Orifice* and increase the number, and take delight in torturing the poore *Patient*, whom they have in *care*: how little sense there is in them of our deadly miseries, who sitting safely in the *Senate*, wrapt in warme *furres*, and guarded by full troopes of their own *Auxiliaries*, heare not the groanes of *slughtered* men, nor the cries of *Orphans*, nor the lamentation of the *Widdowers*, nor see that *spoyle* and *devastation*, which they have made of late in this flourishing *Kingdome*, under pretence of rectifying some few *slips* and *errors* in the former *Government*. From which unmercifull kind of men, no lesse then from the *Plague* and *Pestilence*, Good Lord deliver us.



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